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SEA MINEFIELD NEUTRALIZATION BY MEANS OF A SURFACE DETONATED NUCLEAR EXPLOSION



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Abstract:

In order to determine the effectiveness of a surface fired nuclear weapon in the neutralization of a sea minefield, 121 naval mines of moored and ground types were laid at distances of 2000 to 15,000 ft from ground zero of Shot 4 of Operation CASTLE. The data show that there is a 95 chance that 70 to 93 of all naval mines of the following types, Mk 25-0, Mk 18-0, Mk 36-2, Mk 36-3, and USSR R-1A will be neutralized within a radius of 4500 ft from the point of detonation of a 7.0 MT surface detonated nuclear weapon when the mines are planted in water of approximately 180 ft depth. The data indicate that there is a 95 chance that 72 to 96 of all U. S. naval Mines Mk 10-9 and Mk 6-0 will be neutralized within a radius of 7000 ft or an area of 5.5 square miles from the point of detonation of a 7.0 MT nuclear weapon on the water surface when the mines are located in water of approximately 180 ft depth. Author

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Author(s): Davidson, Glenn M.; Geiger, Marcus G.
Author Organization(s): BUREAU OF NAVAL WEAPONS WASHINGTON DC
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